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ABSTRACT

Papers presented at an open forum on IFLA core programs held at the 1986 general conference of IFLA include: (1) "The Current Activities of the IFLA International MARC (Machine Readable Cataloging) Programme: International MARC Project--Deutsche Bibliothek (IMP-DB)," (Dieter Wolf, Germany), which reviews the duties of the IMP-DB program and its progress on the "International Guide to MARC Databases and Services," continued work on the "IMP Newsletter," and testing of the UNIMARC format; (2) "Progress Report on the UAP (Universal Availability of Publications) Programme," which reviews activities of program staff during the past year, summarizes research activities and publications, and discusses changes in the chairmanship of the Advisory Committee; (3) "IFLA International Programme for UBC (Universal Bibliographic Control)," which discusses the publication of "Serial Holdings Statements at the Summary Level," "Recommended Standards for Cataloguing-in-Publication," and "International Cataloguing," and summarizes projects in preparation; and (4) "Progress Report on IFLA Core Programme Transborder Data Flow (TDF)" (Cynthia Durance, Canada), which describes the background of the TDF program and progress to date, and provides an outline of proposed program activities. (KM)

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IFLA

GENERAL CONFERENCE

OPEN FORUM ON IFLA CORE PROGRAMMES

Tokyo, Japan

August, 1986

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IFLA 52nd GENERAL CONFERENCE 1987
Open Forum on
Professional Programs of IFLA

122-CORE-1-E

The current activities of the IFLA International MARC Programme: International MARC Project-Deutsche Bibliothek (IMP-DB)

by

Dr. Dieter Wolf
Head of the IMP-DB
Frankfurt am Main, Federal Republic of Germany

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The current activities of the IFLA International MARC Programme: International MARC Project-Deutsche Bibliothek

As is known, the IMP-DB is committed to fulfilling the following four duties:

(1) Compiling, printing and distributing the "International Guide to MARC Databases and Services";

(2) Compiling, printing and distributing the "IMP Newsletter", which informs about the activities, events and new developments in connection with UNIMARC and the MARC network;

(3) Testing the UNIMARC format on the basis of the UNIMARC Handbook, by converting the Deutsche Bibliothek's bibliographic data from the MAB 1 format (Maschinelles Austauschformat für Bibliotheken) in UNIMARC;

(4) Cooperation in the production of feasibility studies which investigate the most effective ways to develop the international transfer of bibliographic data in machine-readable form.

The IMP-DB is currently giving top priority to the production of the "International Guide to MARC Databases and Services". With the first edition of the Guide having reaped substantial success, the publication of a second edition seems timely. The new edition will not only include an update of data provided in the first edition, but will also present national online services. As in the former edition, only the services of national bibliographic agencies will be included.

In order to obtain the necessary information for the Guide, a detailed questionnaire was developed in the middle of 1985 and was distributed to 117 national bibliographic agencies throughout the world. In the meantime, 63 responses have been received from 61 countries. Answers are currently being evaluated - a task which is very complicated, in part because we must often check back with the agencies concerning their answers. The IMP-DB's time-table forecasts the publication of the Guide in late Fall this year.

In spite of intensive work on the Guide, the IMP-DB attempts to keep the IMP Newsletter as up-to-date as possible. The newsletter, which is distributed free of charge, has found considerable success as the number of subscriptions testifies: to date, there are 368 individuals and institutions subscribing from all over the world. The fifth issue appeared in March this year, and the sixth issue is planned for September. The latter will include, among other things, reports on the IMP-DB's activities during the IFLA Conference and on the latest status of the Guide.

Testing of the UNIMARC format by means of converting the Deutsche Bibliothek's bibliographic data from the MAB format into UNIMARC has also made considerable progress. The necessary programming for single-volume monographs without links to higher-level records has been completed. Test tapes were exchanged with the Library of Congress in 1985. Programming will be completed as soon as a series of problems concerning mainly multi-volume works are resolved. The Deutsche Bibliothek hopes to offer its bibliographic data additionally in UNIMARC on a regular basis starting 1987.

Within the framework of this programming task, the Deutsche Bibliothek's EDP department otherwise elaborated various suggestions for changes to the UNIMARC format and, among other things, presented them at the London Conference on Format Questions last April.

Depending on available time, the IMP-DB may eventually attempt to complete the last of its activities by the end of the year - that is, in time before the suspension of the project. More precisely, an extensive study on the current situation concerning the international exchange of data between national bibliographic agencies may be undertaken in the second half of 1986. The study would be based primarily on the data extracted from the questionnaire used in the preparation of the second edition of the Guide. As far as additional information would be required, the IMP-DB would obtain it from the individual national bibliographic agencies during the next months.

IFLA

1986

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE, TOKYO

OPEN FORUM

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Progress Report on the UAP Programme

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Programme staff have continued to take part in relevant meetings to the greatest extent possible. Stephen Vickers was asked to address the annual coaference of the Art Libraries Society (UK) in April. The theme of the meeting was "Co-operation in art, architecture and design libraries". One session was devoted to international co-operation. Philip Pacey, former chairman of IFLA's Section on Art Libraries, presented a paper on the problems and possibilities of an international co-operative acquisitions scheme. Stephen Vickers spoke on the availability of art related materials, stressing the need for national responsibilities in moving towards improved international availability.

The National Library of Canada convened an invitational colloquium on the availability of publications in Canada in June. They generously funded the participation of Stephen Vickers, who gave an introductory presentation to set the colloquium in the context of the international programme and who reacted to a document prepared for the meeting on the existing situation in Canada. The full programme included consideration of users in different environments; publishing and bookselling; the new technologies; collections and conservation; resource sharing; and workshops on special formats. The meeting endorsed a significant number of recommendations intended in part to promote and disseminate awareness, and in part to stimulate direct and specific action. The meeting, which was attended by the various sectors of the information community, provided a valuable opportunity to understand the pre-occupations of related sectors and for each to view their own operations in a wider context.

Stephen Vickers stayed on at the invitation of the International Relations Committee of the Association pour l'Avancement des Sciences et des Techniques de la Documentation to attend the joint conference of ASTED and the Canadian Library Association. He participated in a session on Universal Access to Publications in Canada. He presented a general introduction to the programme stressing the need for national initiatives and the acceptance of national responsibilities. This was followed by a report on the situation in Canada by Brian Land, and Hope Clement reported the proceedings and recommendations of the Colloquium.

Maurice Line went to New Zealand in May 1986 to participate in a seminar on 'The Universal Library'. This was very much concerned with access to resources. He gave the lead paper and made several other contributions to the seminar. While there he visited the National Library, where the Librarian said how useful he has found the UAP concepts and publications as a framework for analysing problems and alternative solutions.

Maurice Line also gave the keynote address at the Annual Conference of the Institute of Information Scientists in June. The title of the conference was "Information for all: access and availability". The conference's interests went well beyond published information, but the need for better availability of documents was stressed at various points.

A number of further meetings will take place this year. The National IFLA Committee of the German Democratic Republic is organizing a national meeting on UAP in November. Wim Koops, Chairman of the UAP Advisory Committee, will represent the interests of the programme. In December a meeting will take place in Dakar, organized by the School of Librarianship and sponsored by the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation, on support for agricultural documentation centres. Marc Chauveinc, Member of the UAP Advisory Committee, will represent the programme.

In October nominated representatives of the Caribbean Scientific and Technical Information Network (CARSTIN) will meet in Saint Lucia. They will be asked to attend a preceding seminar on UAP funded by Unesco. Stephen Vickers will run the three-day seminar which will follow the format used at other such meetings, although there will be special

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emphasis on new technologies and the possibilities for regional co-operation. These consecutive meetings allow a very appropriate emphasis to be set on the need to support information networks with systems to deliver the original documents when needed.

RESEARCH

In 1985 Stephen Vickers, under contract to Unesco, undertook preliminary investigations in Senegal with a view to determining and implementing measures to improve the availability of publications. Recommendations for short-term improvements were put forward, together with a longer-term strategy requiring proportionately more commitment but offering more significant progress. The report and recommendations were discussed at a seminar in Dakar in January 1986. The short-term recommendations were largely endorsed, and a number of follow-up activities were proposed for support by Unesco. These include the preparation of a periodicals union list, assistance with the development of service aspects and with the development of collections. Jacques Keriguy, Director of the Library School in Lyon, has agreed to undertake further activity associated with this project.

At IFLA's meeting in Chicago the possibility of conducting a study of the availability of publications in a European country was discussed. Two similar studies have been conducted in developing countries. For various reasons the application of the methodology in an industralized country has long been seen as a high priority. Unfortunately, although the agreement of a country and of a researcher were secured, the stumbling block proved to be a lack of funding. However, the proposal remains on the table and efforts continue to be made to find the necessary resources.

Agreement and funding are available for a feasibility study of a document delivery system to support the Asian Scientific and Technical Information Network (ASTINFO). The feasibility study is to be undertaken in November and December by Maurice Line and Stephen Vickers. It will consider the context in which ASTINFO operates; present policies and procedures for controlling original publications, their acquisition, retention and remote supply; the present demand for publications; the potential demand for publications; and environmental and other influential factors. Possible lines of development will be proposed together with an assessment of the need to amend existing or introduce new mechanisms for the development and organization of collections, the operation of a document delivery system, and regular monitoring of performance. Again, it provides an excellent opportunity to emphasize the need to link bibliographic access with availability of the original publications, and to give detailed consideration to the organizational requirements and likely operational effectiveness of a regional system.

Discussions are also taking place with Sri Lankan authorities on linking proposals for national library and information service planning to the framework provided by the UAP programme.

PUBLICATIONS

The **Guide to the organization of meetings on UAP**, the preparation of which was funded by Unesco, has now been published. It is available free from PGI with the reference number PGI-85/WS/31. It includes an introductory background, considers the role of meetings on UAP and discusses factors to be borne in mind when planning meetings. In the

light of these considerations a format for meetings is proposed and guidance is given on how topics may be treated and developed. The work also includes references to relevant literature; a summary of relevant research; examples of formats adopted at previous meetings; recommendations adopted at the Unesco/IFLA International Congress on UAP; and a range of supporting posters.

An annotated bibliography of published articles, reports and other material on UAP has been published at intervals in **IFLA Journal**. A further update is now being prepared.

A review of UAP progress to date is being prepared. This will be issued in 1987 to coincide with the ten year period since the first planning meeting for UAP held in 1977.

The background document on the availability of publications in Canada, prepared for the Colloquium mentioned above, was generally held to be a useful overview of the present situation. It was therefore recommended that a revised and updated version be prepared for publication by the National Library of Canada for wide distribution. A similar status report on the situation in the United Kingdom was published in 1983. Other countries are urged to give consideration to preparing such reviews.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

As noted in the last issue of the **Newsletter**, those members of the Advisory Committee whose term of office lapsed in Chicago were reappointed. However, the term of office of Wim Koops as Chairman comes to an end in Tokyo. Wim has had a long and fruitful association with the programme from its earliest days. In July 1977 Maurice Line was asked by IFLA to bring together relevant interested parties within IFLA to consider the development of a UAP programme. Wim chaired that first meeting. He continued with the launch of the programme as Chairman of the Steering Committee until the new structures came into force, at which point he was elected Chairman of the Advisory Committee. As a founder member of the programme he was instrumental in gaining wide support (both moral and financial) for the programme by stimulating the interest and involvement of many institutions and individuals, and helped give shape and direction to the programme. However, although his term of office as Chairman comes to an end it does not mean the end of his involvement, as he will continue as a committee member and still be in a position to make a valuable contribution.

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IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE, TOKYO

1986

Open Forum

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CORE-3-E

Open forum on IFLA's core programmes
IFLA International Programme for UBC

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Open forum on IFLA's core programmes
IFLA International Programme for UBC
Friday 29th August 11.00-12.00

The progress of an IFLA recommendation from the first idea of a project to its final approval and publication often seems to be an unusually slow process. Consider, however, that on any one Working Group there may be up to one dozen countries represented and perhaps four or five languages. Added to this, contributions from any one of IFLA's one thousand members in 123 countries must be accommodated. From this it may be concluded that an agreement reached after only 3 or 4 years and only 3 drafts is something upon which IFLA members can be congratulated. The skill and diplomacy of our Working Group chairmen in reconciling the demands of national library traditions and their languages is not praised often enough. We will not, therefore, be overly apologetic in presenting the two latest publications and in reporting that a number of other projects are still in the pipeline.

Our first new publication is the fruit of the Section on Serial Publications' work. Serial holdings statements at the summary level was prepared by Marjorie Bloss and is a UBC occasional paper. The work draws together existing national and international standards on holdings statements and makes a number of recommendations. Serial holdings statements is intended to serve as a working paper for development into an ISO standard.

Our second publication is Recommended standards for Cataloguing-in-Publication . The work was sponsored by the Division of Bibliographic Control and approved by the Section on Cataloguing. Recommended standards presents a sample data sheet for the publishers to fill in and a guide for the suggested content of the CIP statement in the book.

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Complementing this UBC publication, I would like to draw your attention to a Unesco document on Cataloguing-in-Publication. It appears in their Guidelines series and is called Guidelines for CIP by Dorothy Anderson. Just published, and available free from Unesco, these Guidelines draw upon the wealth of experience gathered at the International CIP meeting in 1982. They present information on the establishment and running of a CIP agency.

Three issues of International Cataloguing have been published so far this year. In these will be found up-to-date progress reports on UBC projects, particularly in the annual report of the UBC Programme which appears in the first issue of each year. Issue number three this year contains articles on cataloguing, classification and databases in Japan. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the contributors Shojiro Maruyama, Hiroshi Ishiyama and Kiyoko Tamura. The commissioning of these articles was ably coordinated by the Japanese Library Association's Chairman Tokutaro Takahashi.

Projects still in preparation include the ISBD texts now under review, firstly those for Serials, Monographic Publications, Cartographic Materials and Non Book Materials. This time last year, the Chairpersons of the four Review Groups had amended their drafts in the light of world wide comments. There remained the problem of how to agree, by correspondence, on those decisions which had to be taken jointly, because they affected all ISBDs. Lucia Rather, the Chair of the Review Committee which oversees the work, circulated a suggested set of solutions to these outstanding matters. Had they all proved to be immediately acceptable, publication would have followed. As the debate and discussion is being conducted by post a further delay has been inevitable. Nevertheless, the conclusion of the project is not far away and the texts will then be submitted to the sponsoring Sections for voting before they are published.

The more recent tasks of reviewing ISBD(PM) for Printed Music and ISBD(A) for Antiquarian Books continue. IAML, the International Association of Music Libraries, which co-sponsored with IFLA the review of the ISBD for Printed Music, met in Stockholm to discuss a draft text. When it is ready this text will be circulated for 6 months for

comment amongst those interested and in any case to the members of the Section on Cataloguing, and to IAML.

Likewise the revision of ISBD(A) continues under the supervision of the Working Group sponsored by the Sections on Cataloguing and on Rare and Precious Books. The Working Group hopes to meet at the conference in Brighton next year to discuss progress.

Whilst well established cataloguing rules are reviewed, the appearance of new types of material in library collections leads to a demand for relevent descriptive guides. Collections of machine-readable files and computer software present their own special problems of description and identification. The Sections on Information Technology and on Cataloguing set up a joint Working Group last year to draw up an ISBD(CF) for Computer Files. Thanks to a grant from Unesco the Working Group was able to meet in London in March of this year. The draft text the Group prepared has been submitted to the Standing Committee of the two Sections for their approval. The text will then be circulated to the Section members for six months for comments, the draft will also be available to other interested parties on request. The proposals put forward in the draft include: the order of preference of sources of information for the description, how to indicate systems requirements, the description of data files available on remote access and an English language list of Specific Material Designators.

The draft of the Guidelines for the application of the ISBDs to the description of Component Parts is in its final stages of preparation. The final draft will be submitted to the sponsoring Sections: Serials and Cataloguing, for voting, before being published along with the revised ISBD texts.

As theUNIMARC Format and theUNIMARC Handbook are brought up to date, their implications for other UNIMARC work are being studied. TheUNIMARC format for authority and reference entries must be structure-compatible with UNIMARC. The Working Group is sponsored by the Section on Information Technology and the Section on Cataloguing. At the moment the Group is working on a second draft of the authorities format and is wrestling with the problems of whether to, and how to, include subject

headings and parallel headings. When these problems have been resolved the draft will be available for comment.

Our thanks are due to the British Library which hosted the office for another year and provided management support in the shape of Ross Bourne and Peter Lewis. The other National libraries once again contributed generously to the PMC fund, and this, plus income from sales of publications has financed our activities in 1985, in which year our audited expenditure totalled £33,000.

I should like to end on a personal note, after seven years at the UBC Office I am moving on to work as Books Editor for the British Library Association Publishing Company. My post as UBC Officer will not go unfilled as the British Library is committed to the continuation of the Programme.

I have enjoyed working for IFLA. Involvement in standardizing work is something of a privilege. The network of friends and colleagues that IFLA members can establish is an excellent reason for participation , not only for the goodwill it creates , but also because the resulting grapevine is an efficient means of transmitting information from those on the frontiers of library research and of receiving feedback from those who may never attend a conference but who will feel its effects in their daily work.

I shall continue to follow the progress of "my" Core Programme with interest and affection.

Thank you

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE, TOKYO

1986

Division:

Section:

OPEN FORUM ON IFLA CORE PROGRAMMES

211-CORE-4-E

Progress report on IFLA Core Programme Transborder Data Flow (TDF)

by Cynthia DURANCE

National Library of Canada,

Ottawa, Canada

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The National Library of Canada is the host institution for the Transborder Data Flow core programme. We have completed an initial planning year and have submitted a proposal for the coming year to the IFLA Programme Management Committee. My presentation today briefly describes the background, the progress to date, and gives an outline of the proposed programme.

The programme is concerned with both the flow of data across national boundaries and the technology that supports that data flow.

In terms of data flow the programme covers the flows of electronic data which cross national boundaries and which involve libraries and information centres. Examples are the on-line and off-line flows associated with international telex and international electronic mail messaging involving libraries, International MARC magnetic tape transfers, internationally available on-line information retrieval services, and electronic delivery of full text across borders.

The programme does not attempt to cover flows of proprietary, private or classified data. Their concerns and issues may frequently parallel library Transborder Data Flow concerns and issues but are outside the direct sphere of libraries and information centres.

A realistic IFLA Transborder Data Flow programme has to take into account both IFLA's position as a non-governmental organization and its limited resources. Many Transborder Data Flow concerns and issues are very broad; for example, issues associated with general relations between developed and developing countries, or between Warsaw Pact countries and Western Alliance countries. These include issues of economic and technical sovereignty and of technology transfer. Such issues can only be decided at government and international governmental levels.

While the IFLA Transborder Data Flow programme will attempt to monitor theses broad issues, it would not be realistic to make them primary foci of the IFLA programme, because IFLA can have only limited influence on their outcome.

A particular challenge is to focus the IFLA Transborder Data Flow programme on technological concerns of primary importance to the library and information community and data flow issues which affect the library and information community directly. We want to develop a programme which can be realistically initiated, developed and implemented by IFLA and its members, and which can support the other IFLA Core programmes, by providing them with information and analysis of technological and policy options to assist them in achieving their goals.

Progress to date

In the past year we have been preparing for the start of an operational IFLA Transborder Data Flow core programme.

First we formed the International Office for Transborder Data Flow at the National Library of Canada. The Office currently has one part-time staff member, Roddy Duchesne, Transborder Data Flow Officer plus secretarial support. The Transborder Data Flow Officer works within the National Library of Canada's Office for Network Development, of which I am the Director. The Transborder Data Flow Office's budget for the year ending August 31, 1986 was $ 53000 U.S. Two-thirds of this total was provided in kind by the National Library of Canada; the remaining one-third was provided by IFLA.

The major work we undertook was an Introductory survey of Transborder Data Flow concerns and issues within IFLA.

The principal objectives of the the survey are to identify the most significant barriers to Transborder Data Flow involving libraries by building a factual picture of current transborder data flow and to obtain views and suggestions on the most fruitful directions and priorities for the programme. Three versions of the questionnaire were designed and sent out to, respectively, 112 national libraries 147 national library associations, and 36 international database service providers. A supplementary group of 6 organizations made up of IFLA core programmes and Unesco was invited to complete a common portion of the three questionnaires which asked for views concerning the program's directions and priorities.

The design of the questionnaires proved to be a major task since we had to provide considerable background information without which respondents would have been unable to answer. A number of methodological problems also had to be resolved, including how best to quantify transborder data flows for the purposes of the survey.

The questionnaires were sent in English and French in March 1986. By the end of July 1986, of the 300 questionnaires sent out 56 fully or partially completed questionnaires had been returned. Specifically 23 % of national libraries, 14 % of national library associations, 22% of Database Service Providers, and 33 % of the Supplementary Group responses have been returned.

These figures do not include 4 national library replies to the effect that the national library in question was not able to respond to the questionnaire.

We recognize that the questionnaire is time consuming to answer, but we urge all that have not yet responded to do so as soon as possible. Without your participation it will be difficult for us to develop a programme that meets your needs.

The principal components of our workplan for 1987 are, first, the completition of the survey, including reporting and direct follow-up work. Completion of the survey entails further action to raise the response rate, analysis of the returns, and preparation of reports of survey findings. As well, we will develop proposals for further work based on the analysis.

Second, we will begin a clearing house on data flow policies and developments and on developments in library and information technology, relevant standards activities, and training. Information and referral queries in these areas will be accepted in English or French.

Last, we will begin producing a Transborder Data Flow newsletter which will provide information on the various items I have just described.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the organizations who have answered the survye questionnaire, and to urge those who have not yet replied to do so. It is our hope that in the coming year the International Office for Transborder Data Flow, in spite of limited resources will begin to provide IFLA mermbers and its core programmes with the support they have identified they require.